

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. GRANGER addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SALI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SALI addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WYNN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IMMIGRATION REFORM AND OTHER ISSUES OF THE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, as always, I profoundly appreciate the privilege to address you on the floor here of the United States House of Representatives.

We have had quite a momentous week here, and it gives one a sense who has been in the middle of this environment that there are times when this Congress can work urgently and times when our priorities finally rise to the top. And as I watched the committee action and have been involved in it across on this Hill for these last 4½ years, but especially this last week, with the intensity we had at hearings and the intensity we had at markups, and transferring those markups here to the floor for consideration by the full body and debate and occasionally amendments offered, it has been an intense week, and it has been momentous.

Before I get into the meat of the discussion that I hope to take up this

evening, Mr. Speaker, I have to reflect upon what has transpired here just today on the floor of the House of Representatives, and that is passing legislation that improves our lobbying reform and puts more sunlight on the donations that come from lobbying. And I believe that, yet all of us are bound by our own ethical standards, putting sunlight on those activities allows for the public to make that judgment as well as the individual Member of Congress.

I very much support that philosophy, and I am particularly pleased that the motion to recommit spread that responsibility not just across private sector lobbyists, but also the public sector lobbyists as well. That is something that I believe should have been part of the bill, Mr. Speaker. It was something that I brought language to the Judiciary Committee to correct.

We had a significant and intense discussion on that in the Judiciary Committee, but yet the amendment wasn't quite ready for prime time, as they say. It has had a couple of technical flaws in it, so we withheld that amendment in the Judiciary Committee and brought it here as a motion to recommit tonight where it had significant support from Democrats and Republicans. So I am pleased that we have taken that step.

I am hopeful that we will be able to take up some other steps to provide more sunlight on this Congress. And particularly, the language that I offered in the lobby reform bill that passed the floor today and was eventually included in the bill was the requirement that the information be posted on the Internet in a searchable, sortable, downloadable format that would allow the bloggers across the country to be able to go on the Internet and see what is going on with campaign donations and those activities between the lobby and the Members of Congress.

Sunlight is the best disinfectant, and real-time reporting in searchable, sortable, downloadable format so that we are not putting people through the difficulty of having to reenter from a PDF or an Adobe file, or we are not putting them through the difficulty of trying to come up with some summarized information when easily it can go out there in a spreadsheet fashion and make it available in a format that says, we want you to know this; we want you to see this. In fact, we want that kind of oversight from the public, because this is the people's House, and the people are sovereign in America. And this legislation that passed the floor today helps with that.

But I would like to see that same level of scrutiny on the individual campaign contributions of our Members and in real-time reporting in searchable, sortable, downloadable format, Mr. Speaker. And if we can do that, if we can do our financial reportings so that they are to an exact dollar amount or within a narrow dollar fig-

ure within that dollar amount, and then file our own personal finances as well as our campaign contributions in real-time, searchable, sortable, downloadable format, hand it over to the American people with easy access on the Internet, and let them download, let them sort, let them draw their conclusions, let them write their op eds, let them fire up their base and run their Web pages, and let's let that dialogue be added to the mainstream media, the talk radio dialogue, the across-the-backyard-fence dialogue, all of the things that go together in this national conversation that we have that is an amalgamation of all of the opinions in America that helps shape and, in fact, does shape the consensus that America needs in order to move forward.

Then I would also, Mr. Speaker, suggest a fairly simple thing, and that is that when we are on the floor of this Chamber, and we are debating a bill and an amendment, the number and the name of the bill and the number and the name of the subject of the bill and the amendment are only available to a Member when they walk in here on the floor by going over there and asking staff or asking a clerk. That means then if Members of Congress can be watching this operation on C-SPAN, and walk from their Cannon or Rayburn or Longworth Office Building over here in about a 4½-minute span of time, and from the time of knowing what's going on by watching the television of the floor action and spending that 4 to 5 minutes to walk over here, the subject can change, the bill can change, the amendment can change. Two or three amendments can be passed by a voice vote in that period of time, and you will have no idea what kind of action is taking place on the floor when you walk in here without asking someone that is managing the bill or managing the opposition to the bill.

Yet I look up here, Mr. Speaker, into the gallery, and I see visitors on a daily basis, sometimes in significant numbers, and they can't know what is being debated here on the floor. They can't understand the debate or the actions that are here because we don't make it easily available to them. We don't want to make that a secret. We want people to know what is being debated here. In fact, that is one of the reasons why Members come here to the microphones is because they are able to speak, not just you, Mr. Speaker, but simultaneously to a national television audience.

Members want the public to know what we are doing, but the most obvious thing we could do we don't do, and the cheapest and simplest thing, and that would be just simply to project up here on the wall where we project our votes when we are voting the number and the title of the bill, and the number and the title and the author of the amendment. Post those things up there so that when the public comes in and